

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 29, 2000 LB 1107

understand it just a little bit better than I do right now. I understand what you're saying, but I'm not totally...I'm not totally at ease with the whole process right now and maybe I can get to that point. And I appreciate your responses and also the input that Senator Raikes had and, with that, I'll turn my time back to the Chair, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, Senator Wickersham, just a question or two. I've been trying to follow the debate and, insofar as I can understand what you're doing, it's very intriguing and I would like to thank you for all...for all the effort in this area, you and Senator Raikes both. Here's my question and it's an honest question. I don't know the answer to it. The mechanism you seem to be setting in place, that is the 45 percent mechanism, is being put into statute and therefore, at least to the extent that you would need to change the statute to change it, it provides for an automatic mechanism which would automatically take sales and income tax money and transfer it to schools under certain conditions. That sort of thing is a little bit problematic to me. I mean I really want to think about it, because if I'm understanding the characteristics in a situation in a societal context where you might be making that transfer, it might be also possible that sales and income tax are pressured at that particular point in time also. And so my question to you is twofold. One, is it wise for the Legislature to...to give a...what's the word I want, to give a preference to a transfer to state aid, not knowing a future situation that may arise and how much money in a future situation might be necessary for the university, for other state aid, for all the other things we fund that are not protected by that kind of a statute? Would it be better to be free in that context to make a decision rather than being prejudiced by a provision already in law that you have to follow? That's question number one. And as a part of that, the second question is, is there any other automatic state aid transfer mechanism like the one you're putting into place that has the effect of an automatic transfer, unless the statute is changed? Those...I mean I'm...I'm looking for whether this is a unique mechanism, which I believe it to be, but I may not be thinking of some things. So those...those are my two questions.